AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended)   A recording/reproducing apparatus, characterized by comprising:

a recording medium having different transfer rates in accordance with record positions; and

control means for controlling a temporary record area to be released by writing data transferred from a host apparatus into the temporary record area with use of a predetermined record area of the recording medium as the temporary record area, and transferring the data from the temporary record area to another record area having a lower transfer rate than that of the temporary record area during an idle period,

wherein the control means reads a table in the recording medium into a memory storing the table for managing address information on a file in the recording medium in response to a switch command from the host apparatus for switching to a write mode with use of the temporary record area, checks an empty area in the temporary record area or in the another record area with reference to the table stored in the memory, and notifies a write start address of the another record area to the host apparatus.

2. (Cancelled)

5

3.(Original)   The   recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that

if   an   access   request   for   the   storage apparatus from the host apparatus does not occur after the   lapse   of   a   predetermined   time   or   longer,   the control means controls to release the temporary record area   by   transferring   data   from   the   temporary   record area   to   the   other   record   area   having   a   lower   transfer rate than that of the temporary record area.

4.   (Original)   The   recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that

the   control   means   compresses   data   and   writes the   data   into   the   temporary   record   area,   and decompresses   the   compressed   data   before   the   data   is transferred to the other record area.

5.   (Amended)   A   recording   method   for recording data into a recording medium having different transfer   rates   in   accordance   with   record   positions, characterized by comprising the steps of:

writing   data   transferred   from   a   host apparatus   into   a   temporary   record   area   with   use   of   a predetermined   record   area   of   the   recording   medium   as the temporary record area;

releasing   the   temporary   record   area   by transferring the data from the temporary record area to another   record   area   having   a   lower   transfer   rate   than that   of   the   temporary   record   area   during   an   idle period;

reading   the   table   in   the   recording   medium

6

into a memory in a recording/reproducing apparatus in response to a switch command from the host apparatus for switching to a write mode with use of the temporary record area; and

checking an empty area in the temporary record area or in the another record area with reference to the table stored in the memory.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The recording method according to claim 5, characterized in that:

if an access request for the storage apparatus from the host apparatus does not occur after the lapse of a predetermined time or longer, the temporary record area is released by transferring data from the temporary record area to the another record area having a lower transfer rate than that of the temporary record area.

8. (Original) The recording method according to claim 5, characterized by further comprising the steps of:

compressing data to be written into the temporary record area; and

decompressing the compressed data read from the temporary record area at the time of transferring the data from the temporary record area to the another record area.